



# Peoria County Board for the Care and Treatment Of Persons With A Developmental Disability September 20, 2023

**Members Present:**

Alyssa Newmister  
Cliff Laine  
Dan Kelch

Todd Baker  
William Hayes

**Members Absent:**

Marvin Hightower

**Others Present:**

Amy Roberts, PCCHD  
Katie Van Cleve, HISRA  
Julie Schifeling, Easterseals  
Brad Guidi, Camp Big Sky  
Ryan LaCosse, Best Buddies

Kim Cornwell, EP!C  
Patti Gratton, CWTC  
Eric Glow, Easterseals  
Haven Kensinger, Camp Big Sky

**Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 11:03am by Ms. Newmister.

**Approval of Minutes from July 19, 2023.**

A motion was made by Mr. Laine to approve the minutes of the July 19, 2023 meeting. Motion was seconded by Mr. Baker. Motion carried (4,0).

**Fiscal Reports and Summary**

Mr. Baker made a motion to approve the fiscal reports and summary. Motion was seconded by Mr. Laine. Mr. Gulley stated the fiscal reports in the packet are through June. For revenues, the first big disbursement of property taxes hit in June, and it brought in \$326,232.77 and the next big one will come in September. The CPPRT current total is \$397,132.72, this was 4 of 8 disbursements, this is at 90.3% year to date. Interest has brought in \$22,497.43 from the reserve fund. Overall revenues are just under 65%. For expenses, through June, \$722,335.79 has been spent to the agencies. For July through December 2023, there is around \$680,000 to go to the agencies. Mr. Gulley wanted to point out there was a change from the previous meeting regarding next year's budget, the tax revenue went up about \$54,000. This will go to the full County Board in October. There was discussion around the amount of CPPRT that they will be receiving, and Mr. Gulley noted that it comes from the state and County finance and will send them more information on the estimates after the meeting. Motion carried (4,0).

**Old Business**

There were no Old Business items.

**New Business****2024 Meeting Schedule**

Mr. Hayes motioned to approve 2024 Meeting Schedule. Motion was seconded by Mr. Laine. Ms. Newmister asked if this worked out for the agencies by holding the meeting there, then a tour to follow. The agencies and Board Members stated that they liked this format. Board Members were reminded that they would have to make a visit to Camp Big Sky on their own, as it is not located within Peoria County, so they are not able to hold a meeting there, but still need to visit the site on their own time. Motion carried (4,0).

**Public Comments**

### CWTC

Patti Gratton noted that internally, they are in the middle of their strategic plan and succession planning. They are having changes in administration positions, which will be shared when complete. They continue to get out in the community, volunteering, activities, the art show is November, where they get to show off the artwork of their consumers. They continue to work with their employment program and placing those in the community.

### HISRA

Katie Van Cleve stated that they are adding a new participant to their focus program every 2-3 weeks. They identify the person, do a support needs assessment, meet with their family, do a trial visit, and that results to either register or not register for the program. They have expanded their programming in the 4 content areas. They are also working on strategic and succession planning, hoping to become more sustainable. They have had a huge influx of new participants this fall, put out some bonus programs, allowing those to register when other programming is full.

### EPIC

Kim Cornwell stated that since July they have had 6 job placements and 22 people are on the waitlist. They are currently working with a total of 25 people in job placements. They hired a retired Job Coach in their open Job Development Specialist position. They have a Senior Director of Employment Services starting soon. They are currently working with 119 businesses and 122 people they continue to follow in the community. In the past year and a half, had 55 people go beyond working, not needing help from EPIC anymore. They have about 87 high school students coming in for the transitional program, which are also part of the arts program. Their computer lab has 27 individuals that are being paid to do data entry at different levels. They have about 100 volunteers working in the harvest garden, United Way has been great with that. They continue to do 32 CSA baskets (subscription gardening). There are 103 participants in the life skills training and 77 people volunteer in the community and provide about 212 hours a month. There are 100 unduplicated individuals participating in the education activities. They are able to have an uninterrupted bridge from high school to ICC and there are 12 individuals in the certificate class at ICC. They see EPIC pulling away from this program once ICC sees it as their own. They will be revealing their Bon Appetit Chef to their sponsors. The ISA community approached them to be part of a fundraiser they do for their natural holiday, which is in the first part of November.

### Camp Big Sky

Haven Kensingler introduced herself as the new Executive Director for Camp Big Sky. They are now in their 2<sup>nd</sup> week of life skills program and are learning about the cycles of a monarch butterfly. This year they had an increase of 117 students participating, about 21 more than last year. They have launched their tandem kayaking program; scheduling has been an issue that they're trying to work out. Brad Guidi mentioned that they follow safety protocols and send out experienced kayaker with each camper. There are always 2 kayaks in the water close to the docks at the same time and have practiced water rescues. They purchased a pool lift but have only offered the activity when those experienced are available. This Saturday is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the camp, and they might have 2,000 visitors this year. They are having their Kicking it Up fundraiser on November 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Paradise Hotel and you can register online. Soon they will be bringing their accessible hayrack ride to EPIC to give them rides all day. They had 20 graduates from the volunteer program that are now volunteering or working in the community. They had a fundraiser with a motorcycle club and Knights of Columbus.

### Easter Seals

Eric Glow noted that August and September are exciting times for the early intervention programs. Any child with a birthday in May through July are able to stay on the program so they don't miss the gap during the summer months. Then in August, there is a mass graduation and are able to bring on more children. Julie Schifeling stated the Burt Mercier event is happening September 21<sup>st</sup>

and the Finch event is on September 28<sup>th</sup>, both at Oak Ridge Sportsman's Club. The Easter Seals staff and a couple of their older kids volunteered at the Ledgestone disc golf event.

### Best Buddies

Ryan LaCosse added that since July they have had 6 new participants added to their jobs caseload, and one of those participants has already found employment, and one in the pipeline. They will have a new employee joining the Peoria office, still conducting interviews. Their friendship chapters are back with school back in session. The local leadership training days have happened to ensure a good year that's inclusive and that everyone has the tools they need to put on these events. The year has been more fruitful with in person events being embraced. He is seeing future leaders and working with groups like ISU. If someone has been involved with Best Buddies for at least a year, they can apply for one of two \$4,000 scholarships to ISU and they are working to expand that to other colleges they have chapters in. On October 13<sup>th</sup> they are having their Champion of the Year Gala, which is sold out. However, you still can put your name down for the silent auction item of driving a monster truck. Ryan noted that the first African American man with autism received it last year, Marcus Jackson.

### Miscellaneous

Ms. Newmister thanked the County Board Representative, Mr. Kelch for being present at the meeting.

Kim Cornwell added that lunch was available for everyone and they could all join the tour of the facility.

### Adjournment

Being no further business, Mr. Laine made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Mr. Baker. Motion carried (4,0).

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 am.